THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Indigenous development of Multi Mode Radar (MMR) is being done by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with participation of Defence R&D Organisation. Technical assistance is solicited with associated software for integrating with other indigenously developed MMR equipment. R&D effort will continue to meet the final objectives.

(b) Development of core technologies involved in LCA was the main scope of LCA program. However, development of MMR (in parallel) had been initiated during Phase-1 to demonstrate the technology on the rigs. Accelerated efforts to realize an air worthy MMR has been initiated after the approval of Phase-2 in November 2001. As on 31st March, 2006 expenditure (un-audited) incurred is Rs. 166.03 crore only.

(c) Sustained R&D activity will continue and to improve the technology base technical assistance of international Radar House of repute to be sought.

Preparation of airmen to face challenges

3384. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is preparing the airmen to face the challenges in the present trend; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted and training given to airmen to face the challenges?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airmen are selected through a selection process which includes testing of knowledge level and physical endurance. On induction, the airmen undergo 12 weeks of Joint Basic Phase Training and are given military orientation training which includes handling of weapon and computer knowledge.

Thereafter, airmen are imparted trade specific training at various technical training institutes of the Indian Air Force. In Service training is

also imparted from time to time to upgrade their knowledge and skill. They are, therefore adequately trained and equipped to face the challenges in the present environment.

Review of rules for commercial employment of ex-servicemen

†3385. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the rules for allowing the ex-military officers for commercial employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ex-military officers alongwith ranks thereof who are allowed by the Ministry for commercial employments at present;

(d) the details of ex-servicemen out of above engaged in foreign commercial firms;

(e) whether Government are formulating any action plan to prevent the leakage of classified information of the forces; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The rules for granting permission to retired officials for commercial employment have appropriate checks so as to ensure that a retired officer does not take advantage of his erstwhile position in the Services for commercial gains. The rules are reviewed as and when considered necessary.

(c) During the last three years, 109 retired officers of Armed Forces were permitted to accept commercial employment comprising officers of the rank of or equivalent to Lt. Gens (14), Maj Gens (24) and Brigs/Cols (71).

(d) One retired Cmde of Indian Navy was permitted to accept commercial employment as a Senior Training Consultant with Singapore Technologies Education and Training.

(e) and (f) Detailed instructions exist regarding safety of classified information in the three Services. These instructions are reviewed and updated from time to time. In case of any violation of these instructions,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.